



**A Comparative Study Of Kisumu City (Kenya)  
and Aberdeen City (Scotland)  
Compiled and Edited  
by Dyce Academy and Otieno Oyoo High School**



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## **Introduction**

The link between the two schools was established in 2005 when a group from Dyce Academy travelled to Kenya and were introduced to staff at Otieno Oyoo High School.

The link has been funded by the DFID Global School Partnerships programme: the programme is delivered by a consortium of the British Council, Cambridge Education Foundation, UK One World Linking Association (UKOWLA) and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

We were awarded the Reciprocal Visits Grant in 2008: Solomon Okiro visited Dyce Academy in September 2008 and Elinor Farquharson returned the visit in October 2008. During these exchanges plans were made to work on joint projects particularly related to caring for the environment.

In March 2009 we were awarded the Curriculum Project grant which provided funding for two teachers from each of the link schools to visit the other school. The idea behind this grant was that each school should contribute to a joint curricular project. This book is the result of this work.

For our joint curricular project we involved many classes in the school from S3 to S6 at Dyce Academy, and pupils from Years 1 to 4 at Otieno Oyoo High School. The project was very ambitious.

### **Aims**

To gather field data on urban zones and urban change in the two cities

To research the strategies for waste management in the two cities

To investigate problems of pollution and traffic

To gather data through questionnaires on health issues for teenagers in the two schools

To research through visiting speakers the main health issues in our communities

## Methodology

Pupils were involved in all of the parts of the project and carried out

- Fieldwork Exercises:

Land use mapping, field sketching, photographing, environmental analysis, analysis of waste (Otieno Oyoo High School)

- Research Using Secondary Sources:

Census analysis, map work, research using the internet and published articles.

- Design of Questionnaires

An exercise in preparation of questionnaires, sampling techniques and analysis

- Visiting Speakers

The visiting teachers were found to be a very valuable resource, in addition other outside speakers were invited in to give more background

## Use of the Book

This booklet should be seen as a resource that can be used in class to look at similarities and differences between our school communities. It could be used for illustrating case studies and for stimulating discussion.

The teams at the two schools involved in this work were:

### Dyce Academy

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### Otieno Oyoo High School

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\* Teachers who travelled to Kisumu, Kenya in October 2009

\*\* Teachers who travelled to Aberdeen, Scotland in June 2009

## Background on Kisumu

Kisumu is a lake port. It is the third largest city in Kenya after Nairobi and Mombasa. It has a population of 322734 people (1999 census). The city is a focal point for road, railway and lake transport routes. It started as a small fishing settlement on the Winam Gulf on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria. Later, the settlement developed into a port which was called Port Florence. Port Florence later came to be known as Kisumu. The name Kisumu is derived from a Luo word kisuma which loosely means a place where people meet to exchange goods.

When the Uganda railway reached Kisumu in 1901, the town grew as a collecting centre for cotton and other agricultural produce. Today, Kisumu is the largest lake port in Eastern Africa, with steamship services linking other ports such as Homa Bay, Mwanza, Musoma and Bukoba.

Kisumu's rise in growth and prosperity stalled temporarily, beginning in 1977, with the collapse of the East African Community. However, the city has started to reclaim its status with the reformation of the community in 1996. The port has been stimulated by rejuvenation of international business and trade, as well as shipments of goods destined for Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and DR Congo.

Kisumu is the third largest town in Kenya and is the principal town in Western Kenya.

### Location

It is located at 0°06'S and 34°45'E. It is on the Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria. The city rises gradually from the Southern Plains at the lake shore at 1160m above sea level to the foot of the Northern Highlands peaking at 1800m above sea level.

### Climate

Kisumu has sub humid and semi humid tropical climate with a high mean temperature of about 23°C

### Population

The 1999 national population census estimated the city's population at 345 312 people. It has been estimated that the population has grown and is now estimated to be between 500 000 and 600 000 people today.

### Employment

The population experiences high levels of skilled and unskilled unemployment (30%). Of the working population 52% are engaged in the informal sector such as hawking, car washing, open air vehicle garages (commonly known as Jua kali) and bicycle taxis (boda boda). The average monthly wage is in the range of 3000 – 4000 Ksh. The fish industry is one of the most important employers in the city.

(Kisumu City Development Strategy, 2004 – 09; Kisumu State of the Environment Report 2003).

## Background on Aberdeen

Aberdeen is the third largest city in Scotland after Glasgow and Edinburgh. The area has been important for settlement throughout history, there are Roman records of a settlement at this site, and later Viking records also show that the settlement existed. Aberdeen was given a charter and then flourished in the Middle Ages. Early industrialisation attracted workers to the settlement for employment in the textile industry; the paper industry particularly along the River Don; granite quarrying both in the city and the surrounding area, Aberdeen granite has been used in the building industry and was used for many beautiful buildings in the city giving the city its characteristic silver/grey colouring.

Aberdeen had a population of 209260 people (2007).

### Location

Aberdeen is located at 57°08'N and 2°7'W. It is on the North Sea coast of Scotland. The coastal area has a long sandy beach, long sandy beaches backed by dunes extend to the North, whereas to the South the coastline has more cliffs. The main part of the city is located between the River Don in the North and the River Dee in the South. The name of the city is related to its position between the mouths of the Dee and the Don.

### Climate

Day length in Aberdeen varies greatly with the seasons: at mid winter daylight may only last for 6 hours 30 minutes whereas at mid summer it can be light until 11pm and light again between 4 and 5 am. Winters are cold with some periods of snow, summers are warm but may feel cool because of the wind.

### Population

The population of Aberdeen is falling as a result of the movement from the city to houses in Aberdeenshire where people feel they can enjoy a more rural life whilst still benefiting from the services provided in the city. It is also changing from a young to an ageing population.

### Employment

The original industries of textiles, fishing, quarrying granite, ship building and paper making have all declined. The famous Rubislaw quarry stopped producing granite in 1971. More recently the textile firm Richards closed in 2004.

The oil industry has been responsible for the huge boom following the discovery of oil in the North Sea. Aberdeen is known as the Oil Capital of Europe, and has strong links with other oil cities such as Stavanger in Norway, Houston in Texas USA Jakarta in Indonesia and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.